

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 00131 071225Z
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SP-02 PM-03 L-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00
INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 ACDA-10 EUR-08
/055 W

-----071247Z 102773 /10 S

O R 071210Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2195
INFO USLO PEKING
COMUSTDC TAIPEI TW

S E C R E T TAIPEI 0131

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: MILL, TW, CH
SUBJECT: TWO PRC MIG FLIGHTS VENTURE INTO TAIWAN STRAIT

1. ON THE AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 7 PRC FIGHTERS, PROBABLY
MIG-19'S, APPARENTLY MADE TWO FLIGHTS (FOUR AIRCRAFT EACH)
WHICH VENTURED FURTHER OFF MAINLAND COAST INTO TAIWAN
STRAIT THAN USUAL. DETAILS ARE STILL UNCLEAR, BUT IT
APPEARS THAT BOTH FLIGHTS ORIGINATED FROM THE PRC'S
SHAN-T'OU NORTHEAST AIR BASE.

2. AT THE TIME OF THE FIRST FLIGHT OUT INTO STRAIT (WHICH
REACHED ABOUT 25 MILES OFF COAST--COORDINATES 23 DEGREES
35 NORTH, 117 DEGREES 45 EAST) ABOUT 1350 LOCAL
TIME, THE ROC AF HAD FOUR F-5'S AIRBORNE, PROBABLY
ON A ROUTINE COASTAL PATROL, IN THE SAME VICINITY. THE
CLOSEST LATTER CAME TO THE PRC AIRCRAFT WAS ROUGHLY
25 NAUTICAL MILES. ABOUT 1400 LOCAL TIME THE ROC
SCRAMBLED THREE F-104'S FROM CCK AIR BASE IN TAICHUNG.
BY 1430 BOTH THE PRC AND ROC HAD CALLED BACK THEIR
AIRCRAFT. AT ABOUT 1530 LOCAL TIME FOUR PRC AIRCRAFT

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AGAIN VENTURED OFF COAST, THIS TIME ROUGHLY 20 MILES.
SHORTLY AFTER, THEY RETURNED TO SHAN-T'OU AIR BASE.

3. ROC AF COMMANDERS INTERPRET THE FLIGHTS AS PART OF
PRC USAGE OF NAN AO ISLAND, JUST EAST OF SHAN-T'OU,
AS A GUNNERY RANGE. SIMILAR
FLIGHTS TOOK PLACE IN JANUARY, MARCH, APRIL, MAY, JUNE,

JULY, AND AUGUST OF 1976 THE MAXIMUM DISTANCE THESE FLIGHTS VENTURED OFF COAST WAS LESS THAN 15 MILES. TDC ANALYSTS BELIEVE THAT THE PRC AIRCRAFT HAD NO HOSTILE INTENT SINCE THEY WERE FLYING ON BOTH OCCASIONS AT 17,000-18,000 FEET, WHICH WAS 10,000 FEET BELOW ROC AIRCRAFT AT THE TIME OF THE FIRST FLIGHT.

5. COMMENT: ON BASIS INFO AVAILABLE, APPEARS TO US NEITHER PRC NOR ROC FLIGHTS REPORTED ABOVE, EVEN THOUGH FORMER PROCEEDED FURTHER FROM PRC COAST THAN USUAL, HAD ANY SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE NOR DO WE DETECT EVIDENCE DESIRE EITHER SIDE PRODUCE CONFRONTATION. MORE DETAILED TDC MESSAGE FOLLOWS.

6. FYI: ON RELATED MATTER WITH REFERENCE INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED DEPTTEL 311207 (DTG 272115Z DEC 76), AMBASSADOR SEEKING APPOINTMENT WITH FONMIN EARLY NEXT WEEK.
UNGER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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